

Advancing Animal Disease Traceability FY 2010 Work Plan

Plan Administrator: Robert Gerlach, VMD

Name of State, Tribe, or Territorial Government: State of Alaska

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List additional State departments, Tribes, Territories, etc. that have confirmed participating in the plan (complete name, address, etc.)

These funds may only be used for the advancement of animal disease traceability and support of outreach efforts pertaining to all activities described in the associated FY2010 Advancing Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement announcement. Special field trials and research projects which attempt to address problems or questions about animal disease traceability must be funded through a separate application to an announcement specific for that funding.

Signature of Plan Administrator: _____

Date: _____

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C. Concept of Animal Traceability ~ Agreement: 10-9702-2008 CA

Alaska is unique in that the isolated livestock operations do not rely on interstate or international markets. Most products and animals are sold locally and the perceived need for NAIS is questioned by the producer. Some replacement stock comes from Canada or the Lower 48 states. There are no livestock sale or auction barns in Alaska. It is uncommon for livestock to change ownership frequently within the state.

Premise ID and Animal ID are primarily important for the state animal health officials for disease surveillance work and emergency response to disease outbreaks and tracking. Livestock owners have been very reluctant to participate in the program in the past but after outreach efforts over the last three years some producers have seen some advantages, mostly related to inclusion in disease surveillance programs such as AI, Johnes's, and CWD.

The cornerstone of traceability is premises registration and then having a record of animal movement, such as a bill of sale for intrastate movement or health certificate for imports and exports. Ideally, a database would track intrastate movement, but without mandatory participation and much greater resources to manage it, this will not be practical. This was one major cause of opposition to the previous program as it developed.

Individual animal ID tied to a registered premise offers the best possible traceability capability, but producers have yet to embrace such a system. We must allow producers to drive any requirements or else face further opposition or apathy toward animal traceability. With time and participation, perhaps they will begin to see the need and potential benefit to them. At this time, only intrastate cervid movements must be reported to the State Veterinarian. Cervid herds enrolled in the state CWD monitoring program (most of the producers) may be tagged with 840 RFID tags but it is not mandatory.

Animals entering the state must be identified and so may be traced at least one step back. If they have changed ownership within the state, they are not necessarily traceable anymore. No specific measures are currently being used to measure animal disease traceability capability in Alaska. Animals leaving the state are subject to the gaining state or country's rules and a copy of the certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) is required to be sent to the Alaska State Veterinarian.

D. Project Objectives

There are no current animal disease traceability measures being performed. The previously mentioned animal movement mechanisms allow for an estimate of traceability time but is limited by whether the current owner has any paperwork from importation, or a bill of sale for

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intrastate movement. Another limiting factor is the time required for hard copy mail (CVI) to be received by the Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV). Alaska does accept Global Vet Link automated CVIs. At risk animals and locations are only as quickly traceable as the premises data base completeness allows. Otherwise, the location must be surveyed by vehicle, which might take several days in more remote areas of the state.

Objective 1. It would be useful to exercise trace back efforts for various types of animals in various parts of the state. This would establish baseline values for measurement of capability.

Objective 2. Measure improvements in trace back capability compared to the baseline values established in Objective 1.

Objective 3. Utilize State Veterinarians and Administrative Assistant for personal services devoted to the AADT program.

Objective 4. Update web site to reflect change to AADT and provide outreach education to stakeholders to ensure awareness and understanding of the goals and objectives of the program.

Objective 5. Ensure that electronic information systems fully support the AADT program.

Objective 6. Provide producers with information about the program. Coordinate a statewide working group for AADT with representation from industry to provide input for a written plan to advance animal disease traceability.

Objective 7. Enhance electronic accessibility by state and federal officials to results of bovine brucellosis and TB testing and to CVIs. Document the number of animals associated with the forms listed above.

Objective 8. Determine if there are any legal limitations or constraints to sharing of animal disease traceability data between Alaska and other states or the Kawerak Reindeer Herder's Association, who operates its own program under the tribal system.

E. Results/Benefits Expected

The overarching goal of the work is to improve our ability to trace animals to their premises of origin in case of a disease outbreak. The first step is to be able to identify animal premises, followed by identification of animals that is linked to their premises of origin. After identification of the premises of origin, it will be important to be able to trace animal movements forward and backward from the premises of origin to identify herds at risk. Improvement in the time required to trace an animal to its origin or just improvement in the ability to trace at all will benefit industry by minimizing potential quarantine areas, quickly identifying exposed herds, and limiting the spread of disease.

F. Approach

The work plan will focus on cattle and farmed cervid operations. A secondary emphasis will be made toward poultry, sheep, goat and horse owners.

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The work plan will support personal services for state animal health officials and the administrative clerical staff in education outreach effort to livestock owners to explain the advantages of the program in Alaska and encourage participation in the program. A portion of the funding will support travel for state personnel during outreach education presentations and travel related to registering premises into the state system. Funding will also support the meeting of the state Animal Traceability Working Group. Premises registration will remain the primary objective of the states cooperative agreement work plan.

The work will be completely executed by the OSV utilizing funding from USDA with 20% matching funding from state general funds. APHIS/VS database infrastructure for premises registration will continue to be utilized. USDA Traceability Staff will be utilized only for consulting purposes.

G. Plan of Action

Objective 1. Run tabletop exercise for traceability capability in several parts of the state.

Objective 2. Re-accomplish traceability capability test to measure improvement.

Objective 3. State Veterinarian, Assistant State Veterinarian, and Administrative Assistant will all work on the program. State VMOs 0.15 FTE, Admin 0.05 FTE.

Objective 4. OSV web site will be updated to reflect new way forward for animal traceability and to encourage producer participation. The web site will also be used to post the meeting times, participants and minutes of the Animal Traceability Working Group.

Objective 5. As new data management needs are developed, existing systems will be updated or replaced to ensure functionality.

Objective 6. Producers will be educated at outreach venues around the state. Statewide Working Group will be organized to provide guidance and ensure that users benefit from the program.

Objective 7. Data capture for Brucellosis, TB, and CVIs will be examined and mechanisms for state and USDA access will be assessed.

Objective 8. Legal opinions will be sought regarding sharing of data between state, tribal, and federal agencies.

H. Work Detail and Description

Objective 1. Existing animals will be selected from farms in Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Kenai boroughs that are on registered and unregistered premises, and are tagged or not. They will be traced to their point of origin as best possible. The time required and the resources required will be measured.

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Objective 2. The exercise in Objective 1 will be repeated to measure improvement, based on progress in accomplishment of the overall work plan and premises registration percentage.

Objective 3. Three OSV personnel will devote part of their personal services time to the program, as described under "Resources Required".

Objective 4. The OSV will determine the content for the new web site based on USDA and state priorities and educational/promotional guidance and utilize the state information technology webmaster to edit the site as needed.

Objective 5. Any data management deficiencies that are identified will be corrected with updated software or hardware as needed. Future needs will be projected and budgeted for in coming years.

Objective 6. OSV representatives will provide outreach education at state fairs and meetings in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Kodiak, Palmer, Kenai, and Nome. The statewide working group will meet initially to pave the new way forward and then later in the year to report progress and solicit further input. Possible integration of brand registry with the premises registration system will be explored.

Objective 7. Data from brucellosis testing is expected to be automatically captured by the state laboratory information system, which is undergoing a major overhaul. The resulting new system should make that data available and easily searchable to state authorities. Once in place, a mechanism to make it available to USDA will be developed. TB test results are still maintained on hard copy. The number of tests done within Alaska is very small, so the records will need to be accessible, but should be reviewable as needed. The current filing system will be reviewed for functionality. CVIs are maintained on hard copy or through Global Vet Link. These are easily accessible to state authorities and can promptly be made available to USDA as needed. As with the TB test results, the filing system will be reviewed for functionality.

Objective 8. The Alaska Department of Law will be queried for an opinion on information sharing between state, federal, and tribal systems.

I. This plan has no unusual features

J. Resources

Three current full-time personnel will work on this plan part-time. No new staff will be hired. The state will provide computer equipment. Some 15 digit car tags will be purchased with APHIS funding. Ear tags, mailing and office supplies will be procured through state procurement systems.

Travel Needs: Payments are made through the State of Alaska travel program using state travel office and state credit card for most payments. Travel payment amounts vary depending on hotel

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rates but per diem is \$60/day throughout Alaska. Travel rates are typical air and rental car fees negotiated by the state travel office with commercial airlines and car rental companies. The state veterinarian approves travel within the state, the division director (one level above the state veterinarian) approves out of state travel. Trips are by car or air and car. Five or six trips will be authorized (to Nome, Fairbanks, Kenai, Palmer, Delta, and Kodiak). Fairbanks and Delta trips may be combined dependent upon scheduling.

Supplies: Routine office supplies will be procured through state procurement system.

K. Accomplishments to be achieved (see table)

Activity	Planned Accomplishment – List Specific Performance Measures	Performance Measures - Achievements -
Activity 1	Achieve 45% premises registration Cornerstone of traceability	Premises registration percentage measurable, recorded quarterly
Activity 2	Outreach education at all state fairs and through mail Mail out new program info to all farm addresses per NASS Educate producers about new program philosophy	100% contact May 2010 or when new materials available July 2010- Delta Junction August 2010- Palmer, Kenai, Fairbanks Sept 2010 – Kodiak March 2011 – Nome
Activity 3	Ensure data accessibility to agencies Explain planned accomplishments: Obtain legal opinion on data sharing Examine filing systems Identify data management shortfalls	May 2010 April 2010 As occur
Activity 4	Measure animal traceability Explain planned accomplishment: Run exercises to test system	Exercise run, April 2010 Follow-up exercise run, March 2011 Results recorded
Activity 5	Facilitate State Working Group Initial and follow-up meetings	April 2010 and Feb 2011

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L. Budget

Personnel Services: Outreach education, training, management

<u>Funding request from USDA to support work plan</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>State Match</u>
<u>Personnel (salary and benefits)</u>		
State Veterinary and Medical Officers (.15 FTE)	\$13,000	\$ 3,250
Administrative Assistant (.05 FTE)	\$ 3,000	\$ 750
	\$16,000	\$ 4,000
<u>Travel:</u>		
Plan one person traveling per trip:		
Estimated costs: per diem \$60, airfare per trip \$400-\$600, car rental (Kodiak) \$400, lodging \$135/night		
Fairbanks/Delta -4 days overnight trip	\$1,000	\$ 250
Kodiak - 4 days overnight trip	\$1,450	\$ 363
Kenai Peninsula - 3 day overnight trip, two staff	\$ 700	\$ 175
Nome - 3 days overnight trip	\$1,050	\$ 262
Palmer - 4 days, two staff, vehicle trip	\$ 400	\$ 100
	\$ 4,600	\$ 1,150
<u>Supplies:</u>		
Office materials, printing expenses, supplies	\$ 733	\$ 183
	\$ 733	\$ 183
<u>Indirect:</u> (calculated against personal services)		
SFY10=29.36% & SFY11=29.13%	\$4,667	\$ 1167
	\$ 4,667	\$ 1,167
Total Federal Funding Requested from USDA	<u>\$ 26,000</u>	
State matching funds		<u>\$ 6,500</u>
Total cost of work plan (Fed 80%, State 20%)	<u>\$ 32,500</u>	

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